

## Musicians take to stage for Spartan Spectacular show

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# The State News

CRIME

## STUDENT IN ABBOT HALL ROBBED BY 2 MEN SATURDAY

By Abby Lubbers  
THE STATE NEWS

A 19-year-old student was robbed and threatened Saturday in his Abbot Hall dorm room, according to MSU police.

The student fell asleep in his first-floor room after the football game, and woke up at 6 p.m. to find a 6-foot-tall man with a medium build in the room, holding his roommate's laptop, police said.

The door to the room was closed but unlocked, MSU police Sgt. Florene McGlothian-Taylor said.

When the student told the man he was "not going to be stealing anything from him," another man, who appeared to have a gun under his sweatshirt, entered the room. The second man closed the door behind him, said the victim, who declined to identify himself for safety concerns.

"He said he did (have a gun). I didn't see it, but I wasn't going to take that chance," the victim said.

The incident was the first armed robbery on campus this semester, according to campus crime statistics.

The suspects reportedly sat down and smoked a few cigarettes in the room before saying they had more people to talk to, the victim said.

"It's kind of frightening because I've always heard of things that were on campus on the streets, not necessarily in a dorm room," said dietetics junior Amy Carion, who lives in Abbot Hall.

The first suspect was wearing dark jeans, a black sweatshirt with white writing and a black hat. The second man had a medium build, was 6 feet 4 inches tall and wore a white hooded sweatshirt, police said.

The suspects reportedly stole \$20 in cash. The roommate's laptop was damaged.

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## Theories abound about D.C. move for Granholm



President-elect Obama answers a question during a news conference Friday in Chicago. From left are Vice President-elect Joe Biden, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker.

"She's a very bright woman and she has much to offer, I presume, and knowledge about manufacturing and the auto industry."

Paul Menchik,  
MSU economics professor

By Kelly House  
THE STATE NEWS

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm has been a big supporter in the Democratic presidential campaign and transition of President-elect Obama. The former Hillary Clinton supporter stumped for Obama after he won the Democratic Party's nomination. She stood in for Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin to help Vice President-elect Joe Biden prepare for his debate. And most recently, Granholm has counseled Obama as a member of his economic advisory board.

MSU economics professor Paul Menchik said those factors, combined with Michigan's emergence into the national spotlight as a poster child for the nation's economic problems, make Granholm an appealing choice for a Cabinet position. "She's a very bright woman and she has much

to offer, I presume, and knowledge about manufacturing and the auto industry," Menchik said.

Granholm has been named as a possibility for energy secretary. Menchik said she also could be considered for trade representative, considering Michigan's close relationship with Canada.

Although Obama's only appointment to date is U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., as chief of staff, he is expected to make several more appointments in the coming weeks.

Granholm's staff has asserted that she is focusing on her duties as governor, but experts said Gra-

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COURT

## Lead suspect in homicide is arraigned

By Abby Lubbers  
THE STATE NEWS

The lead suspect in the September quadruple homicide of an MSU student and three others was arraigned Wednesday in Holland's 58th District Court.

Agribusiness sophomore Katherine Brown, 18; her boyfriend Jeremy Zimmer,

20; his brother Tyler, 17; and his mother Sharmaine Zimmer, 53, were found dead in the Zimmers' home Sept. 29. The bodies were discovered after emergency personnel responded to a call that the house was set on fire. Police said the fire was started to cover up the homicides.

Ottawa County prosecutors issued a seven-count warrant against Troy Brake, 31, after he was arrested Oct. 16 in Grand Rapids on separate charges.

Brake was in possession of a .40-caliber Glock handgun at the time of his arrest, and Grand Rapids police contacted Ottawa County investigators because the gun was the same type as the weapon used in the quadruple homicide.

The gun found during Brake's arrest was not the weapon used in the crime, but the actual weapon, another .40-caliber Glock handgun, was found during an Oct. 16 search of Brake's home in Grant, police said.

Testing at the Michigan state crime lab confirmed the handgun as the weapon used in the Zimmers' home.

"Some casings found at the scene of the homicide and some shell casings he had fired at his house were comparable with the weapon seized in the search warrant," Ottawa County sheriff's Lt. Mark Bennett said.

Autopsies showed the Zimmers were shot to death, and Brown died of blunt force trauma, before the house was set on fire.

The bodies were found in three different places, according to their normal sleeping arrangements, Bennett said.

Brown and Jeremy Zimmer were on the second floor, Sharmaine Zimmer was on the main floor near her bedroom

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UNIVERSITY

## Police inspect classroom gun threat, find phone

By Abby Lubbers  
THE STATE NEWS

A political science class in Conrad Hall had a scare Wednesday when MSU police pulled a student out of class for reportedly having a gun.

Police responded to a tip at about 3:15 p.m. that a student was carrying a gun under his jacket, but the reported gun turned out to be a cell phone in its holster, MSU police Sgt. Florene McGlothian-Taylor said.

But the incident sent shock waves through the lecture hall, political science and pre-law senior Anthony Stone said.

"I was in awe — it was like déjà vu of what happened at Virginia Tech," he said. "What made it worse was a lot of the females around me were tearing up, saying it was like Virginia Tech."

Between 3:35 and 3:40 p.m., the classroom door burst open, and two uniformed officers and one person in a suit entered the class, said the lecturer, political science professor Charles Ostrom. He was teaching Political Science 200, Intro to Political Science, which has 300 students enrolled.

"When the police came in, it was just really fast — we had no clue what this kid was being arrested for," said Heather Allman, an interdisciplinary stud-

"I got nervous, because I immediately thought of Virginia Tech, and what could happen here. I was just scared."

Heather Allman, interdisciplinary studies in social science senior

ies in social science senior who was in the class.

"I got nervous, because I immediately thought of Virginia Tech, and what could happen here," Allman said. "I was just scared."

When Ostrom asked what was happening in the classroom, an officer walked to the front of the room and informed him the student was reported to have a gun.

"The first thing I was think-

ing is something bad is going to happen — I was pretty shaken," Ostrom said.

The student was sitting on the right side of the classroom, just a few rows ahead of political science senior Nic Clark.

"Everyone in the class was pretty speechless," Clark said.

The professor kept the class for about 10 minutes after the disruption, then dismissed the students.

"I tried to work my own mind around what we were going to do," Ostrom said.

The student arrived at class Wednesday with his grandfather. Ostrom initially thought he recognized the suspect's grandfather as a man who had previously worked in the Department of Political Science, but later said he did not know him.

But the student who gave police the tip did the right thing, McGlothian-Taylor said.

"It could have easily been thought to be a gun, but it was not," she said.

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ELECTION RESULTS

Michigan's House Democrats expand their role in the state Legislature, page 3A.



Weather

Showers  
High 52° | Low 48°  
Three-day forecast, page 2A